

Development. My question is, I guess, of someone, what is the overwhelming need to do this? Has Department of Labor done such a rotten job that we feel that they should no longer be doing this? This is a serious policy change and direction change with regard to the role and the scope and the mission of the Department of Economic Development. They are basically taking over not only funds that have been paid to the Department of Labor and then should remain under their jurisdiction, but much of their duties and responsibilities that relate to this area. That is, I guess, if that's what they're going to use the money for. Now a million dollars is not a tremendous amount of money when you're talking about the different types of things that are spelled out in the new Training Cash Fund that they would do and that, again, you know, job...reimbursement for job training activities. And we just, on a bill earlier, or an amendment earlier to this bill, we adopted an amendment and we took that lid off, that \$100,000 lid, with regard to what Department of Economic Development could use monies for in terms of job training. Now we're sliding a million dollars over from the Department of Labor to the Department of Economic Development. I'm not saying that it's connected in any way. Far be it from me to consider that option, but the fact of the matter is, is that you are taking and you're making a substantive change with regard to the role and mission of two separate and distinct code agencies. Granted, they are both under the auspices of the Governor, but the fact of the matter is you're sliding a million dollars over to Department of Economic Development. You're going to provide for a duplicative system with regard to job training activities, pre-employment, on the job training, equipment and other reasonable costs related to helping industry and business locate or expand in Nebraska. And what does that mean? I think that the Chizek amendment is appropriate at this point in time because there's been very little or any discussion of this issue or the need to transfer these funds away from the Department of Labor and they would still be available to DED upon request. I would urge the adoption of Senator Chizek's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple questions of Senator Moore, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, would you respond?